



Special Interest Articles

Commander's Corner

Command Sergeant Major's message

Army striving to combat identity

Junior Soldiers get 'cool' options for promotion points

Soldiers, officers can now view records online

2nd Brigade 78th Division creates Sunni Triangle at Fort Drum

New Relief Act provisions protect Service Members

New Army Web site assists disabled retirees apply for special compensation

Department of Defense begins gathering data for BRAC

AKO Mail Auto-Forwarding

Reflexive live fire: Combat Service Support Soldiers become hard targets and lethal firers

'TF Soldier' focuses on warrior readiness

First U. S. Army appreciate Soldier's care at local hospital

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Sgt. Robert Jepsen, acting as opposing force continues to put up a struggle for two 30th eSB soldiers during FTX. Photo by Staff Sgt. Felicity Binnier, 78th Division PAO NCO

Around the World in 80 days: 78th Division prepares National Guard Brigade for duty in Iraq

*By Staff Sgt. Felicity Binnier & Maj. Matt Leonard
78th Division Public Affairs Office*

After 80 days of train-up the 30th enhanced Separate Brigade is one step closer to a likely deployment around the world supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 4th Brigade of the 78th Division provided the 30th, a North Carolina National Guard brigade, with weapons training and qualification, leadership enhancement training, physical fitness, lanes and live-fire exercises. All of this instruction came together during a four-day field-training exercise. The FTX put into action what the 30th brigade learned at Fort Bragg and was the climax of their stay here.

"This field training exercise allows each battalion to exercise as a battalion specifically for situations in Iraq, mission-focused training, before they go on to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana," said Brig. Gen. Jay Hood, 24th Infantry Division. The 24th Infantry Division is the Command and Control headquarters of the 30th while the 78th Division provided the training support in the form of observer/controller trainers, unit assistants, and subject matter experts from its units in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Since 9/11 the 78th has trained and validated over 60,000 mobilized National Guardsmen and Army Reservists. Both the 78th and 24th Divisions are units under the First U.S. Army which is headquartered at Fort Gillem.

During the FTX "Soldiers take what they learned in their individual, squad and platoon lanes and execute them on a more continuous basis," said Capt. Randy Rustman, assistant training operations officer, 4th Brigade, 78th Division (TS).

"Instead of a sterile environment where you know everything, Soldiers with 30th Enhanced Separate Brigade would come up on an environment that causes them to evaluate and to choose a course of action such as setting up a traffic control point or a cordon and search because the conditions dictate it," said Rustman.

See Around the World, p.4

Commander's Corner

Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members –

As our calendars and agendas fill during this new year, I urge you to remember our most important agenda item...what we are all about. We are about taking care of Soldiers...training them...teaching, coaching and mentoring them...readying them for wartime...ensuring they are prepared to the best of our ability. Each of you is critical in this endeavor as part of the First Army team. It is our shared responsibility to each Soldier to do our best. This is what we do for Soldiers; this is what we do for America.

Take a moment to reflect on the Soldier's Creed and let it renew you for the challenges we are sure to face in the year ahead. Thank you for your dedicated service and support.

Soldier's Creed

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.
I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge
Commander, First U.S. Army

First In Deed

[Return to Main](#)

Army striving to combat identity theft

By Andrea Takash, Army News Service

The Army is working to ensure that thieves can't steal the personal information of Soldiers, their families and Army civilians.

Over the past five years, 27 million American adults have been victims of identity theft, according to the Federal Trade Commission's 2003 Identity Theft Survey Report.

"Identity theft was the number two most reported crime to the federal government in 2003, and it is on the rise," said Peter D. Anzulewicz, information assurance analyst, Army Web Risk Assessment Cell.

The Army Web Risk Assessment Cell in the Information Assurance Directorate released a distance learning training course on Feb. 1 that contains a section on DoD and Army Web site policy and an interactive Web site. The interactive Web site will test Web administrators' knowledge of the policies.

"The distance learning training course will teach Web administrators what is and is not permitted on publicly accessible Army Web sites," Anzulewicz said.

"We have been working with other Department of Defense agencies to minimize the risk of identity theft through the removal of inappropriate personal information from Army publicly accessible Web sites during the AWRAC review of Web content," Anzulewicz said.

For example, commanders' biographies on the Web no longer list the names of family members. The publicly accessible Web sites should only list office names and phone numbers. The only names on the Web sites should be Army spokespeople, Anzulewicz said.

Anzulewicz explained that it is imperative for securing personal information that Web administrators, Web masters and commanders understand the DoD and Army's Web policies. "Criminals don't have to be clever to steal identities; they are just a keyboard away," he said.

See identity theft, page 5

Command Sergeant Major's Message



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Jeffrey J. Mellinger**

Foreign Editorial On USA

We have just passed the two-year mark in the Global War on Terrorism. We hear and read much in the news about how we are not making a difference, and certainly how slow we are to make change. "Why don't they (Afghanistan, Iraq) have a constitution yet? It's been enough time." Perhaps the overindulgences of the 1980s and 1990s created far too many that want and need instant gratification? Perhaps too many forget it took 14 years to ratify the Constitution of the United States, and in a country where we were not violently, internally divided? So what miracle are we expecting to occur in the places we have soldiers today (to include Bosnia and Kosovo), that would allow those countries we are assisting to no longer benefit from our presence? Perhaps the same miracle which occurs in America each time we are faced with seemingly overwhelming difficulty and trauma, such as we faced at Pearl Harbor, Homestead, Oklahoma City, the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and at Shansville? The following was sent to me, and offers a Romanian view of what makes us who we are. God Bless America!

We rarely get a chance to see another country's editorial about the USA. I think this is very much worth reading and passing on. It says a lot.

Read this excerpt from a Romanian Newspaper. The article was written by Mr. Cornel Nistorescu and published under the title "C"ntarea Americii, meaning "Ode To America" on September 24, 2002 in the Romanian newspaper Evenimentul zilei ("The Daily Event" or "News of the Day").

~An Ode to America~

Why are Americans so united? They would not resemble one another even if you painted them all one color! They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations and religious beliefs. Still, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart.

Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the army, and the secret services that they are only a bunch of losers. Nobody rushed to empty their bank accounts. Nobody rushed out onto the streets nearby to gape about. The Americans volunteered to donate blood and to give a helping hand.

First In Deed

[Return to Main](#)

After the first moments of panic, they raised their flag over the smoking ruins, putting on T-shirts, caps and ties in the colors of the national flag.

They placed flags on buildings and cars as if in every place and on every car a government official or the president was passing.

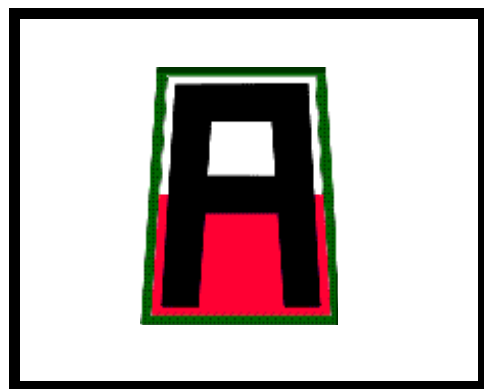
On every occasion, they started singing their traditional song: "God Bless America!" I watched the live broadcast and rerun after rerun for hours listening to the story of the guy who went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was, or of the Californian hockey player, who gave his life fighting with the terrorists and prevented the plane from hitting a target that could have killed other hundreds or thousands of people.

How on earth were they able to respond united as one human being? Imperceptibly, with every word and musical note, the memory of some turned into a modern myth of tragic heroes. And with every phone call, millions and millions of dollars were put in a collection aimed at rewarding not a man or a family, but a spirit, which no money can buy.

What on earth can unite the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their galloping history? Their economic Power? Money? I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs and murmuring phrases with the risk of sounding commonplace.

I thought things over, but I reached only one conclusion...Only freedom can work such miracles.

First In Deed!



Junior Soldiers get 'cool' options for promotion points

By Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

Junior Soldiers in a handful of job specialties have another option to gain promotion points.

As of Jan. 11, skill-based licenses and certifications from civilian sources are worth 10 points. There are 10 career fields that are currently participating in the initiative: Adjutant General, Air Defense Artillery, Aviation, Engineer, Ordnance, Quartermaster, Signal, Transportation, Army Medical Department and Public Affairs.

Promotable specialists and sergeants can add up to 50 points in technical certificates, but the points will only remain valid as long as the certificate is valid, said Sgt. Maj. Louisa Scott, the chief of Enlisted Promotions at U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

"The certificates can be added as a promotion action only when a Soldier has at least 20 points to add. Then the expiration date on the certificate will be recorded. So if a Soldier needs to re-certify for his license to remain valid, and he fails to do so, then the points will be deleted," Scott said.

"This is a work in progress," said Jeffrey Colimon, the senior military analyst for the Training and Doctrine Command's Personnel Proponency Directorate.

The initiative is new and will undergo a number of changes, Colimon said, however Soldiers can stay abreast of what military occupational specialties have jumped on board by visiting the Web site for Army Credentialing Opportunities On-Line at www.cool.army.mil.

The different proponents have the latitude of analyzing the credentialing concept and determining if it adds value to their branch, Colimon said. Most combat arms proponents elected not to participate because of the lack of related certifications in the civilian arena, he added.

The promotion point incentive is the Army's way of encouraging Soldiers who are not interested in college but still want to pursue professional development, according to officials in the Promotions Branch at the Human Resources Command.

In the future there will be a link to Army Regulation 600-8-19, Enlisted Promotions and Reductions to provide more information on promotion policy, said Louie Chartier, the COOL program manager.

First In Deed

[Return to Main](#)

Around the world (Con't)



Capt. Francis Park, O/C-T with 78th Div (TS) keeps a close eye on soldiers during the FTX because the high stress situations of training can impact safety.
Photo by Staff Sgt. Felicity Binnier, 78th Division PAO NCO

Much of the research compiled by intelligence officer, Capt. Kristine Armstrong, 4th Brigade, 78th Div (TS) was applied to make training as realistic as possible. The use of civilian identification cards and passports, faux Iraqi money, indigenous male and female dress, and a 'most wanted' list were just a few of the effects used to simulate scenarios," said Armstrong, "which were pulled right

from what has been seen by military intelligence as well as information given by Soldiers returning from deployments in Iraq." Some scenarios included improvised explosive devices, snipers, crowd protests, and rock throwing civilians. The 82nd Airborne Division supported the mission by providing about two hundred personnel to be role players and opposing forces.

"I love this stuff. I get to play the best enemy possible in order to make the training authentic for those Soldiers not used to these types of tactics," said Sgt. Robert Jepsen, an 82nd Soldier stationed at Fort Bragg.

Jepsen played an opposing forces role in an ambush scenario. Subsequently he was captured and became an enemy prisoner of war who had information to share.

"I look at it like this, if it's with me they make their mistakes and learn from them the better off they'll be when it really counts," said Jepsen. "The lane that the artillery battery did was a part of a larger scenario that

See Around the world, p. 11

Soldiers, officers can now view records online

Shannon Brown, chief of the HRC Information Management Branch

Soldiers can now review their personnel information on the Web in a one-page Enlisted Records Brief. Official photographs were added last month to the online Officer Records Briefs, which first became available on the Web in June. The ERBs went online in December.

MyERB and MyORB are now both on the U.S. Army Human Resources Command homepage at <https://www.hrc.army.mil>. Just click on the "Active" link at bottom right. Then the MyORB and MyERB links can be found in the left chimney.

Identity theft (con't.)

In 2003 alone, consumers reported losses totaling more than \$400 million from fraud, according to Consumer Sentinel, the complaint database maintained by the FTC. Under the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act, it is a federal crime when someone transfers or uses a means of identification of another person with the intent to commit any unlawful activity that constitutes a violation of Federal law.

Identity theft takes only minutes for thieves to accomplish while recovering from identity theft takes months to years for the victims of this serious crime, Anzulewicz said.

He said it is more dangerous when Soldiers become victims of identity theft. "If a Soldier in Baghdad has his credit card stolen, the criminal will max it out without his knowledge. Then, his wife back in the states can't buy food for the kids. The Soldier is thinking of his family starving back in the states. Identity theft makes Soldiers ineffective and puts them in harms way," Anzulewicz said.

Three common ways of stealing identities exist. "Most identity thieves take personal information out of mailboxes or trash cans," Anzulewicz said. However, the Internet is a growing outlet for criminals, he said "People give their personal information away everyday on the Internet," Anzulewicz said.

He said Soldiers and their families can protect

themselves from identity theft by being cautious of giving out their personal information.

"Also, make sure you check your credit card bills for abnormal charges. Invest in a shredder and shred all of your personal information before throwing it away," he said.

If your credit card is missing or stolen, Anzulewicz said



immediately call the credit card company. "Ask that a 'fraud alert' be placed in your file," he said.

Furthermore, he advises people to order an annual copy of their credit report from the three credit reporting agencies — Equifax, Trans Union and Experian. Check for accuracy on the reports and make sure the activities listed were authorized.

Identity theft victims should call the Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Hotline at 1-877-ID-THEFT, Anzulewicz said. When people call the hotline, trained personnel guide them through the steps needed to resolve their issues resulting from identity theft.

For more information on identity theft, go to the Federal Trade Commission's Web site at <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>.

2nd Brigade 78th Division creates Sunni Triangle at Fort Drum

by Maj. Matt Leonard, 78th Division PAO

As news of Saddam's capture was reaching the airwaves across the world, the 2nd Battalion of the 108th Infantry was taking casualties at Fort Drum.

The 2/108th, New York National Guard was mobilized and reported to Fort Drum on October 5th for a likely rotation supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Their mission would be to provide a secure and stable environment in their area of operations.

Fort Drum's "Patriot Brigade", the 2nd Training Support Brigade of the 78th Division is making sure that these National Guard Soldiers are ready for whatever they might encounter in Iraq.

The Patriots began by providing 9 weeks of individual, crew, squad, platoon and company level training for the infantry battalion. These events all led up to last weeks culminating event; a 96-hour battalion Mission Readiness Exercise.

During the MRE the unit is "in Iraq". The Fort Drum Military Operations in Urban Terrain site was even dressed up to portray an Iraqi town.

The 2nd battalion 108th was responsible for running its own tactical operations center, logistic operations and forward operating bases. It received missions, performed mission analysis, issued operations orders and executed the missions.

"Our objective was getting a woman out of this building and out of Tikrit safely," said Capt. Vince Heintz, A Company Commander explaining a mission just executed.

But as his HUMMWVs entered the town they were swarmed by an angry mob of Iraqis who demanded that their water service be restored. While they shouted at the Soldiers in the Iraqi language others attempted to steal items from the vehicles.

"A 22 or 23 year-old sergeant has to make decisions under stress," said Heintz, "these scenarios generate many dilemmas."

"We only have a split second to decide what to do," said Spec. Elias Kougemitros, a light machine gunner with A Company. "You don't have to think- it becomes a reaction. That is what the training is about."

"The only way to rehearse rules of engagement is to do training like this," said Sgt. Edgar Medina, a sniper

First In Deed

[Return to Main](#)

with A Company.

Through the course of the 96 hours the Patriots subjected the 2/108th to more than 75 other scripted "injects" ranging from suicide bombers to a U.S. helicopter crash complete with mass casualties.

"Dealing with NGOs like Doctors without Borders, citizens who are sympathetic, citizens who are mad at us- as well as dealing with criminals- all those problems at once," said Heintz, "practices leadership at the most junior level."

Even "Mother Nature" threw in some injects of her own. On Day 1 of the exercise a snowstorm dumped 16 inches of snow on the participants. The snow was followed by sub-zero degree wind-chilled nights.

"If you can do it in this cold you can do it anywhere" said Kougemitros.

Creating this high quality training experience was no small task. It required the synchronization of resources from multiple activities from Fort Drum and elsewhere.

"We incorporated about 100 role players for the MRE," said Maj. Ed McCarthy, Intelligence Officer for the 2nd TSB. "These included members of the Patriot Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, 78th Division Headquarters and its other brigades, Fort Drum civilians as well as actual Iraqis who fled Saddam's regime."

"The Training Support Brigade is definitely an organization that is here to help us," said Lt. Col. Mark Warneke Commander, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, "They've identified our needs and adapted the events so our Soldiers are better trained."

"We applied the tactics, techniques and procedures as well as the lessons coming out of Iraq every day and put them into this model," said Col. Richard McEvoy, Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 78th Division, "Our goal was to create the most realistic experience possible for the battalion while at Fort Drum."

Next month the 2/108th will join the 30th enhanced Separate Brigade for a 2-week Brigade-level MRE at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk. "These rehearsals are important," said Medina, "you want to practice what you'll come across in the real world so you'll be prepared."

New Relief Act provisions protect Service Members

*By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service*

A new law replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 will provide military personnel -- especially those deployed or called to active duty -- greater protections to handle their personal financial and legal obligations, Defense Department officials said here. President Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act into law Dec. 19. "The focus of the SCRA is the same as under the SSCRA: to provide protections to service members who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of their military service," said Air Force Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy director for legal policy in DoD's Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. "The SCRA is a significant law, because it clarifies and updates the provisions that existed in the SSCRA, while adding some additional protections," he said.

"Service members on long-term deployments or called to active duty should not have to worry about their families in their absence being evicted from their quarters without sufficient legal protections," he continued, "or that they are paying on a leased car or apartment that they can't use, or about civil legal proceedings they can't attend because of their deployment.

"These are some of the situations the SCRA covers so that service members are able to devote their energies to the military mission and the defense needs of the nation, and not on civil matters waiting for them at home," he added. What Lindemann called "a significant change" added in the SCRA is an automatic 90-day stay of civil proceedings upon application by the service member. This applies to all judicial and administrative hearings. In the past, according to Lindemann, stays were discretionary with the courts.

The SCRA also makes it clear that the 6 percent limitation on interest rates for pre-service debts requires a reduction in monthly payments, and that any interest in excess of 6 percent is forgiven, not deferred, Lindemann said. The SCRA also expanded the protection against eviction. Under the SSCRA, service members and their dependents who entered into a lease for \$1,200 or less could not be evicted without a court order. The SCRA increased that maximum lease amount to \$2,400 and added an annual adjustment for inflation. For 2004, the maximum will be \$2,465. Lindemann said this will significantly increase the number of service members entitled to this protection.

First In Deed

[Return to Main](#)

The SCRA also gives the service member who has received permanent-change-of-station orders or who is being deployed for not less than 90 days the right to terminate a housing lease with 30 days' written notice. Prior to the SCRA, service members could be required to pay for housing they were unable to occupy.

One of the more significant provisions in the SCRA that did not exist in the SSCRA, Lindemann said, was an added protection for service members who have motor vehicle leases. Any active duty service member who has received PCS orders outside the continental United States, or who is being deployed for not less than 180 days, may terminate a motor vehicle lease. The law prohibits early termination charges. "Now, service members won't have to pay monthly lease payments for a car they can't use," said Lindemann.

"Service members may not always realize all the protections they have under the law," Lindemann said. "If service members have questions about the SCRA or the protections that they may be entitled to, they should contact their unit judge advocate or installation legal assistance officer for further assistance."

New Army Web site assists disabled retirees apply for special compensation

U.S. Army Human Resources Command Public Affairs Office

A new Web site designed to assist disabled military retirees in applying for Combat-Related Special Compensation went online the week of Jan. 12. The U.S. Army CSRC Web site, located at www.crsc.army.mil, provides information a disabled military retiree needs to apply for this special compensation, said officials from the Human Resources Command. The site provides program guidelines used to determine eligibility for combat-related disability benefits and application procedures for the program. "The site includes an application form, which can be downloaded, and it gives detailed instructions of the application process, said Brig. Gen. Gina S. Farrisee, the Army Adjutant General. "It also contains supporting documentation required to substantiate a claim and helpful tips on how to enable the timeliest application processing."



United States Department of Defense News Release

Department of Defense begins gathering data for BRAC 2005

Today, the Department of Defense has requested commanders of installations in the United States, territories and possessions to gather information about their installations as part of the 2005 round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). The department will use BRAC to reduce unnecessary infrastructure and to increase military capability and effectiveness.

All installations will participate in these calls. While none of the questions or data associated with the questions will be released to the public prior to the department's recommendations being forwarded to the independent Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, which will be named by March 2005. All questions and data will be publicly available once the Commission receives them.

This data call is only one of many steps in the BRAC process. There will be additional data calls as necessary. Formal data calls are one of the ways the department satisfies its statutory obligations to treat all military installations equally and to make its closure and realignment recommendations based solely upon certified data.

In a related action, the department published Draft Selection Criteria in the Dec. 23, 2003, Federal Register for public comment. The department will use the criteria as part of its evaluation process. Comments are due not later than January 28, 2004. The department's list of base closure and realignment recommendations will be submitted to the independent BRAC Commission no later than May 16, 2005, as required by the legislation.

General information on the DoD's BRAC process is available online at: <http://www.dod.mil/brac/>.

Readiness...



First In Deed

[Return to Main](#)



**U.S. Army
NEWS RELEASE**

Army Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20310



AKO Mail Auto-Forwarding

Army Regulation 25-2 prohibits the practice of auto-forwarding official mail to non-official accounts.

To comply with AR 25-2, AKO is discontinuing the option to auto-forward email to non-official accounts. To view this regulation, please visit: http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/25_Series_Collection_1.html. Mail domains that will retain auto-forwarding: AKO will manage exceptions to this overall policy on a domain-by-domain basis. At this time, AKO will continue to support auto-forwarding to the following domains only:

- *.mil
- *.gov
- *.ndu.edu
- *.usma.edu
- *.nato.int
- *.marshallcenter.org (Marshall Center)
- *.apcss.org (Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies)
- *.pims.org (Partnership for Peace Information Management System)

AKO will entertain requests to add domains to the above list, based on operational need. Requests should be submitted via email from your mail system administrator to autoforward.exception@us.army.mil. AKO will review all requests and provide an answer within 7 days. AKO will review the list of excepted domains at least quarterly, and may require confirmation from email administrators that a given domain is still active and still requires exception.



Reflexive live fire: Combat Service Support Soldiers become hard targets and lethal firers

by Major Matt Leonard
78th Division Secretary of the General Staff

“Every Soldier a rifleman first,” said Army Chief of Staff General Peter Schoomaker recently.

These are literally words to live by, especially considering the realities of the low-intensity conflict that sparks up regularly in the “Sunni Triangle” area of Iraq.

Here at Fort Bragg the 4th Brigade of the 78th Training Support Division is ensuring that every Soldier of the 30th enhanced Separate Brigade, North Carolina National Guard is ready for the frontlines in Iraq.

In the Sunni Triangle, the volatile area surrounding Baghdad, if there is a frontline it is shaped more like a circle, a 360-degree perimeter that surrounds every convoy, every patrol, and every Soldier. That is why all Soldiers need to be comfortable with their weapon and become accustomed to returning accurate fire quickly; i.e. “reflexively”.

It is especially important for Combat Service Support Soldiers to be proficient riflemen because terrorists in Iraq are making opportunistic attacks at coalition forces, particularly convoys.

“If you read things that are occurring, a lot of CSS Soldiers are coming under attack,” said Major John Cox, Alpha Team Chief, 1/310th TSBn, 78th Division and Reflexive Fire Range OIC, “they get ID’d as softer targets by the enemy.”

The Reflexive Fire Training at Range 50 involves some things you don’t normally want to see at a range. This includes Soldiers walking toward the target with magazines locked and loaded... and Soldiers facing perpendicular to the targets with weapons pointing in the direction of the buddy in front of them. This is clearly not a standard program of instruction.

For each firing point of this 25-meter range there are two, e-type silhouette targets. The practice silhouettes are further constrained by the small geometric shapes drawn on them. The qualification silhouette has a narrow “bowling pin” representing the lethal zone.

There are ten different firing tables but generally soldiers begin standing with their weapon down at their side as if patrolling. Following a command they have three seconds to raise the weapon, attain a good sight picture and

First In Deed

[Return to Main](#)

In another instance the entire firing line will advance on the target. While the Soldiers are walking the tower may instruct them for example to drop to one knee and engage the triangle shape.

For another event they will start facing 90 degrees away from the target; facing the back of the armed buddy in front of them with another armed buddy behind them. They all start walking forward and on command quickly execute a turn, aim and engage, this time it might be the circle shape. “It’s something different- something I’ve never done before,” said Staff Sgt Demetric Rasberry, an armor inspector with B Company of the 230th Support Battalion.

The fact that every Soldier assigned or attached to the 30th eSB is participating in this portion of reflexive firing is a direct result of the situation on the ground in Iraq. The need was recognized so the 1st Battalion of the 310th Regiment developed a training module. “We train muzzle awareness; how to move with the weapon,” explained Cox. “They’re moving down range, gaining confidence that they can move and engage the target, and that their buddies on the left and right can do that as well.”

At Range 75 the combat element Soldiers of the 30th eSB are taken one-step further. A live fire “shoot house” is incorporated into squad-level Military Operations in Urban Terrain or MOUT training. Various breaching techniques such as mechanical, ballistic and demolition breaches are taught in this portion. During the live-fire exercise these breaching techniques are used to gain entry to the shoot house. Once inside the Soldiers are able to fire live rounds because the interior of the structure is made to safely absorb the bullets.

Each CSS Soldier will fire 84 live rounds at Range 50 during their portion of reflexive firing. To qualify the Soldier needs 16 hits out of 18 in the lethal zone with the remaining two rounds still hitting the silhouette. “Any time a Soldier has the opportunity in training to put rounds down range it’s a good thing,” said Colonel Richard Fink, 78th Division Chief of Staff, “It increases their survivability on the battlefield.”

Rasberry concurred, “We might get in close-up fire with someone so we got to be on guard. This teaches us to be ready.”

‘TF Soldier’ focuses on warrior readiness

By Joe Burlas , Army News Service

Editor’s note: This article will examine one of the 16 focus areas outlined by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker.

While inculcating the Warrior ethos into all Soldiers of both the active and reserve components is one of their top priorities, so is ensuring that all deploying members of the Army team are properly trained and equipped, according to members of a Fort Benning task force. TF Soldier, a subordinate organization of Fort Benning’s Infantry Center, has been charged by the chief of staff of the Army to analyze Soldier training, equipment and readiness needs for fighting the global war on terrorism and coordinate with other Army organizations to implement programs and policies to meet those needs.

“The Soldier” is one of the focus areas the Army will be directing its resources toward in a systematic and deliberate way in coming years,” said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker during October’s Association of the U.S. Army annual meeting.

The Warrior ethos statement contained within the new Soldier’s Creed -- “I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade.” -- is a key aspect of The Soldier focus area, said Brig. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, chief of Infantry and Fort Benning’s commanding general.

“This is about shifting the mindset of Soldiers from identifying what they do as a Soldier -- ‘I’m a cook, I’m an infantryman, I’m a postal clerk’ -- toward ‘I am a Warrior’ when people ask what they do for a living,” Freakley said.

The Soldier’s Creed helps Soldiers understand that despite very diverse backgrounds, all Soldiers are warriors and members of a team, Freakley said. The creed is also about changing the Army culture, by encouraging it to examine its beliefs from a warrior’s perspective and checking that the Army produces and retains Soldiers of value to the nation, he said.

While Freakley said he had a hand in helping to develop the warrior ethos and Soldier’s Creed, he credited the work of dozens of others, including a warrior ethos task force created by former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki that recommended valuable background information in developing the Soldier’s Creed.

First In Deed

[Return to Main](#)

“The Soldier’s Creed training is being implemented throughout the Army, including pre-commissioning instruction, basic training and officer basic courses,” said Lt. Col. Peri Anest, TF Soldier operations officer. Schoomaker includes instruction on the Soldier’s Creed when he talks to each pre-command course for officers preparing to take battalion, brigade or higher commands, Anest said. TF Soldier is helping to ensure that needed clothing and equipment for deploying Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians are issued in a timely manner. Those items include things like moisture wicking undergarments that help prevent chafing in a desert environment, wrap-around sunglasses and hydration systems.

“In the past, Soldiers would have to go off post and buy things like this off the shelf from a commercial vender,” Anest said. “Under the Rapid Fielding Initiative, we are working with PEO (Program Executive Officer) Soldier to identify clothing and equipment not normally in the Army system and get it into the system. Ideally, these items will become part of a Soldier’s basic issue that he carries with him from post to post during his career -- similar to what the Special Forces Soldiers do today with much of their gear -- but that will be an issue for the Army Clothing Board to decide.”

While much of the new equipment is getting to deploying active, Reserve and National Guard units prior to their departure from home station, some of it may be issued weeks or even months after those units arrive in theater. “I have to warn you about raising false expectations,” said Brad Tesch, a TF Soldier operations specialist. “We have a variety of vendors with different production lines producing at varying speeds. That means we are playing catch up with some of the items.”

“Until enough of the RFI equipment is produced to field it to all Soldiers in the Army, TF Soldier and PEO Soldier are working with (Headquarters, Department of the Army) G-3 to prioritize which units get the equipment first and when,” Anest said. “Other TF Soldier efforts include identifying 40 individual and 10 collective warrior tasks in which all Soldiers will remain proficient. Those tasks include react to a grenade attack, evacuate a wounded or injured Soldier, avoid an ambush and conduct a convoy operation. (Training and Doctrine Command) is currently working to ensure the tasks are included in enlisted and officer initial entry training courses,” Anest said.

For more information on TF Soldier, visit <http://www.infantry.army.mil/taskforcesoldier>.

First U. S. Army appreciate Soldier's care at local hospital

Soldiers present service excellence awards

By Gayle Johnson, First Army Public Affairs Office



Maj. Steven Ballew (center) and Capt. Mark Donnelly present First Army Certificate to Nurse Tammy Barnett. Photo by Gayle Johnson

were called and he was transported to Southern Regional Medical Center's emergency department. There, he was treated by hospital personnel with primary care by Dr. William Watkins and Nurse Tammy Barnett. "The care I received from the nurses, to the physicians, and the technicians was nothing short of terrific," said Ballew. "I am totally willing to recommend Southern Regional to others without any hesitation."

As a result of the excellent care provided to Ballew, the Commander of First U.S. Army, Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge sent certificates of appreciation to the hospital and its staff. The certificates read, in part, "Your professional skill and compassion in caring for one of First Army's Soldiers in the Emergency Room of Southern Regional Medical Center are greatly appreciated".

According to Inge, the top priority of communities and this nation, at this time, should be the care of Soldiers.

Maj. Ballew and Capt. Mark Donnelly, Commander, Charlie Company, USAG Army, Fort Gillem, were asked to personally present the First Army certificates to hospital personnel and act as guest presenters at the hospital's Leadership Development Institute. On December 11th, Ballew and Donnelly presented awards for the top outpatient Department (Cardiac Catheterization), top inpatient unit (Obstetrics) and most improved (Telemetry). This event was held at The Beach at Clayton County International Park's VIP Pavilion.

Sgt. Carter Kegel and EMI Steven Stone (Emergency Medical Technician), from the Forest Park Fire Department, also received certificates of appreciation for their care of Ballew. Ballew has made a full recovery.

Maj. Steven A. Ballew, a mobilization and plans officer with First Army operations, started his day on October 28, 2003, with a run. There's nothing unusual about a Soldier starting his day with physical training. However, Ballew would not complete the course. Ballew experienced severe chest pains and collapsed during his run. Emergency personnel

First In Deed

[Return to Main](#)

Around the world (Con't)

required the unit to exercise many of the same actions it would likely take in the Iraqi theatre of operations," said Capt. Francis Park, 1-312th Regiment, 4th Brigade, 78th Division.

The design of the training was to get Soldiers into a fast decision making cycle. It forces Soldiers to respond to two, three, and four events happening right after each other and some happening simultaneously.

Once in Iraq they won't have a feeling of being completely overwhelmed because they have experienced it before and now can cope with it. "The 30th eSB faces a lot of internal and external

challenges," said Maj. Mufutau Taiwo, training O/C-T, 1-312th, 78th Division, "It is with good leadership and training they should be able to accomplish what they need to do for their mission." On the final days of the training, Col. Michael Cardarelli, commander, 4th Brigade, 78th Div (TS) relayed to the commanders and observer/controller trainers that "the maximum training value for these last months would only happen if we push the battalions intensely over the next 48 hours of the FTX because it is the culmination of all things they're supposed to do in theater." Our intent was to load so much into the training that the 30th eSB Soldiers would get overwhelmed. So 4th Brigade provided more op-tempo than what is actually going on in Iraq, which was apparent with the higher number of training casualties taken," said Rustman, "but that was intentional due to the limited amount of time and the number of different events we wanted to expose them to throughout the FTX." As the FTX concluded the 4th Brigade's final after action review gave the leaders of the 30th feedback from which to improve. During their next round of mission training at JRTC the valuable lessons from the 78th Division and Fort Bragg will certainly be evident. "They will take all the lessons they've learned in training with them into the theatre of operation where they'll need them," said Park.



Civilian on the Battlefield role-player Kareem Waely, from B-214th is "killed in action". Photo by Staff Sgt. Felicity Binnier, 78th Division PAO NCO

Black History Month

*"Freedom is never given; it is won."
-A. Philip Randolph*



February

"The freedoms we enjoy today are only possible because of the sacrifices of the Soldiers

who have served this great nation in war at various times for over 300 years. Since 1641 there has never been a time in this country when African-Americans were unwilling to serve and sacrifice for America. Before revolutionary times and through every war to the present, Black men and women have willingly served and died for their country."

*Gen. Colin L. Powell, U.S. Army (Ret.)
and former Chairman of the Joint
Chiefs of Staff*

First In Deed

[Return to Main](#)

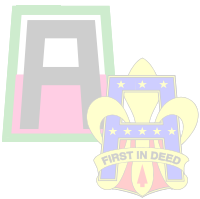
St. Patrick's Day

March



The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and he almost didn't get the job of bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship.

Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God. The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country, in Boston.



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Send us your stories or story ideas.

[First In Deed](#)

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